



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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W. ROY DILLON, GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATOR, RETIRES AFTER 37 YEARS

Marking the close of a distinguished career in Government service of more than 37 years, W. Roy Dillon, Chief of the Division of Administration of the Fish and Wildlife Service, will retire on December 31, Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced today.

As a fitting climax to a lifetime of public service, Mr. Dillon was presented on December 29 with the Distinguished Service Award--the Department of the Interior's highest honor.

Director Albert H. Day of the Service praised Mr. Dillon's ability and said his retirement was accompanied by a sense of deep regret shared by everyone in the Service.

Mr. Dillon, who is 59 years old, was born at Catlettsburg, Ky., on May 6, 1890. After completing his early schooling there, he was a student for two years at the Portsmouth, Ohio, Business College. He started his Government career on December 16, 1912, with the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Dillon's 35½ years of service with the Fish and Wildlife Service and one of its predecessor agencies, the Bureau of Biological Survey, began on April 16, 1914, when he transferred to the Survey.

On August 28, 1918, when he entered the Army during World War I, he held the position of chief clerk and executive assistant to Dr. E. W. Nelson, Chief of the Bureau. Upon his return in 1919 from military service, Mr. Dillon was assigned as executive assistant to the Chief U. S. Game Warden. For the next 16 years he served in high administrative capacities in that branch of the Bureau which was engaged in enforcing Federal conservation statutes and in administering the wildlife refuges then in existence.

On May 27, 1935, J. N. "Ding" Darling, then chief of the Biological Survey, selected Mr. Dillon as the best qualified person to be placed in charge of all administrative activities of the Bureau.

On June 30, 1940, when the Bureau of Biological Survey and the Bureau of Fisheries were merged into the present Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. Dillon was designated to head the combined administrative set-up of the new agency. To him goes much of the credit for the smooth integration of administrative policies with a minimum of interruption to work programs.

As Chief of the Division of Administration, Mr. Dillon guided Service activities with consummate skill through the critical war years when the agency was beset with innumerable administrative, management, and manpower problems, to which were added the difficulties occasioned by the decentralization of the Service to Chicago from 1942 to 1947.

Mr. Dillon and his wife live at 317 North Thomas, Arlington, Va. His future plans call for "plenty of loafing." After the first of the year the Dillons will leave on an extended motor trip to North Carolina and the west coast of Florida.